Dear Dave,

10/14/85

A bit of assassination trivia.

David Chandler appears in Oswald's addressbook as "David Crawford." Almost certainly Chandler is not the name to which he was born.

Lil picked up a number of secondhand books, as she does yearly, at the annual book sale of the AAUW. One is Gangster by David Chandler. I've read it, mos ly while resting during my morning therapy. It is almost certain that he is Jewish and that he, not his father, changed the name. I base this on the content of the book in which detailed knowledge of Jewish words, religion and practices is to ~~xxxx~~ integral and detailed to have been added by anyone else.

To a lesser degree this is also true of Italian words, so I believe that he was born in a large city, probably New York, neighborhood that was mixed and that he picked up the less integral and simpler Italian he uses.

The book itself is a novel based on gangster reality. His characters are for the most part readily identifiable with such gangsters as Charles Lucky Luciano (same incidents to his working for the US government in World War II), Meyer Lansky, Bugsy Siegel, etc. Even the gangs gambling in Cuba and Fidel Castro's overthrow of Batista are there, with Cuba as Santa Cruz, etc.

He did make a readable novel from it but without originality.

When he worked for LIFE he was a gangland expert for it. When Oswald looked him up he was working an a New Orleans paper, I think the State-Item. He worked for LIFE in N.O. when I looked him up. He confirmed contact by Oswald.

Best,

I'll send you the book for any trivia collection.